

Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council
September 5, 2024
1:30 p.m.
MINUTES

Call to Order

Dr. Frederick Keroff, Chair, called regular meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

Roll Call

Alison Zerbe called roll and quorum established.

Announcements:

Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2024 (June 6, 2024, cancelled)

MOTION TO ACCEPT the minutes of March 7, 2024.

Motion made by: Chief Vincent Cinque

Seconded: Dr. Evan Boyer

MOTION passed unanimously

Presentation: Marty Cassini, Director, Broward County Intergovernmental Affairs

- Marty Cassini presented the sunset review process required by the County Charter. He is here to clean up anything that needs fixing like categories/positions that are hard to fill.
- Law enforcement, union representative has been a difficult position to fill.
- When achieving a quorum, it's the appointed members and not vacancies who are considered (1/3rd of the appointed members).
- An excused absence is generally up to the chair whether it's excused under the code such as hospital stay, sickness, death in family, maternity/paternity leave, or doing something on behalf of the board. Also depends on the circumstances.
- At present, only include members phoning in when an in-person quorum is met.
- There were some changes during COVID when they allowed members to meet in a hybrid manner. That is a legal determination by the county attorney depending on what's on the agenda. Some county boards decided they are only going to use physical quorums.
- If a quorum is not met the only members counted as present are the in-person members.
- EMS Council has four quarterly meetings and possibly a 5th depending on the grant.
- EMS Council minutes are approved by the EMS Council but do not automatically go to the Board of County Commissioners. If there is something pressing you would have a motion to send a letter/email to the Board via Alison Zerbe and Dr. MacDougall.
- Currently, the EMS Council is going to retain status without changes.

MOTION TO RETAIN the Broward Regional EMS Council membership without changes.

Motion made by Dr. Evan Boyer

Seconded by Dr. Alexander Torres

MOTION passed unanimously

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Presentation: Pulsara (David Summers, Department of Health, was not present)

Pulsara is a communications and logistics platform meant to streamline care coordination. For EMS it would be used for communications between field and facility, and patient tracking. Patient tracking has been an area for opportunity for improvement in every incident and exercise EMS has had in Broward County.

It is a state initiative that provided by the State at no charge (for seven years) to fire, EMS, hospitals, and affiliated healthcare facilities. It has sustainable funding through SB2500 Appropriations provided to DOH to procure and standup for the coordination of care for patients that is scalable to address natural disasters, MCI, and other time-sensitive emergencies.

Our healthcare community is aware, and some are working toward adopting Pulsara. It has been slow to get this started in Broward County. The following is a demonstration video link to give you practical information on Pulsara and help to conquer some obstacles.

[Florida Pulsara Resources](#)

Chief Julie Downey has been working with [ReadyOp](#) (a single web-based platform) for four years or more for patient tracking. It's basically finished but agencies have been slow to grasp because there aren't many MPI, so people are not using it every day.

ReadyOp integrates planning, operations, communications, visual displays, reporting forms and more in a single web-based platform. But it's up and running.

Dr. Katz said his understanding is that ReadyOp's grant covered incident command and vision tracking but not everyday use for transport which would make it difficult to use in a mass casualty incident. For some uses you must purchase it, and the grant doesn't cover everything. With Pulsara everything's included in the grant.

Dr. Keroff said they presented Pulsara to the EMS Agencies in Dade County and they reception was lukewarm. The concern was that it added an extra layer of things for the paramedics to do without any perceived benefit. Two measures need to occur to make the use of Pulsara beneficial: 1) Hospitals need to adopt its use, and 2) Pulsara needs to be integrated with the EMS agency's software so that the paramedic needs to only enter the data once and it will be exported to the EMS agency's software. Dr. Keroff believes it a good tool in a mass casualty situation, but, if they're not using it on a regular basis, it may not become an effective tool. Need to jump in with both feet because it can be effective on the backend if it's done right or not use it at all. Agencies want to know what the value is for them because it adds more for paramedics to do at the scene.

It was mentioned that more municipalities either have ReadyOp and are using it to some capacity or they are thinking about using it. Others are using ESO with hospitals which is

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also something to consider. So, they need to know who's administering it.

They need to continue to investigate both Pulsara and ReadyOp to make a recommendation to the County. Do a side-by-side comparison. It's a great item for this Council to deal with and they need a plus/minus spreadsheet and presentations from both products. Dr. Lee thinks using this type of product will evolve.

Dr. Katz wants whatever product they go with to have a pilot program at the three trauma centers. Majority of mass casualties go to the trauma centers. All agencies would use the software for all trauma transports. Implementation widespread so everyone's on the same page (standardize use).

Memorial is implementing Pulsara pilot project with the City of Hollywood with trauma patients.

Alison Zerbe wants to get presenters who currently use these products, and the vendors, to speak to the EMS Council. Alison will coordinate this.

At the special meeting you can voice your opinions, but it will not be an official meeting.

MOTION TO CONDUCT a Special Meeting to get information and opinions on Pulsara and ReadyOp.

Motion made by Dr. Wayne Lee

Seconded by Chief Julie Downey

MOTION passed unanimously.

Alison will also look up ReadyOp product and send a link out.

Recommendations for Appointment/Reappointment:

Dr. Chauniqua Kiffin, Physicians: Surgeon (expires on October 6, 2024)

Dr. Deborah Mulligan, Physicians : Pediatrician (expires on October 6, 2024)

Stephen L. Demers, Hospitals: Memorial Healthcare System, Administration (replaces Peter Powers)

MOTION TO ACCEPT Reappointment of Dr. Chauniqua Kiffin, Physicians: Surgeon

Motion made by Dr. Randy Katz

Seconded by Joshua Cornblit

MOTION passed unanimously

MOTION TO ACCEPT Reappointment of Dr. Deborah Mulligan, Physicians: Pediatrician

Motion made by Dr. Patricia Rowe-King

Seconded by Dr. Chauniqua Kiffin

MOTION passed unanimously

MOTION TO ACCEPT Appointment of Stephen L. Demers, Hospitals: Memorial Healthcare

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System, Administration
Motion made by Chief Julie Downey
Seconded by Chief Ezra Lubow
MOTION passed unanimously

Recent Appointments by Commission on May 21, 2024

Joshua Cornblit, Advanced Life Support (ALS) County Provider
Alexander Jonker, Fire and Paramedic, Union Representative

Vacancies:

Advanced Life Support (ALS): Private Provider
American Heart Association, Broward County Chapter
American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter
Appointee of Commissioner: Mark D. Bogen – Dist. 2
Appointee of Commissioner: Robert McKinzie – Dist. 8
Broward County Trauma Advisory Panel
Law Enforcement, Union Representative

APPLICATION FORM FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

<https://www.broward.org/Intergovernmental/Pages/BoardsCommittees.aspx>

Contact/email Alison Zerbe with nomination/recommendations for the vacant positions.

(FYI the Trauma System Quality Improvement Committee (TSQIC) was combined with Broward County Trauma Advisory Committee to become the current TSQIC.)

Committee Reports:

Legislative Session – Alison Zerbe

- Florida Legislative Session 2024 is included in a separate document for your information.
- Next legislative session starts March 4, 2025. Let Alison know if you have any concerns or interests.

Executive Committee – Dr. Frederick Keroff

- No Report.

Public Information, Education – Open

- No Report.

EMS Conference – Chief Caruso

- 27th First There First Care Gathering of Eagles Conference was very successful. 2024 registration was more than 1900. Thanked the EMS Council for their support.
- 28th Annual First There First Care Gathering of Eagles Conference for 2025 is June 9-13, 2025, at the Hard Rock Hotel Casino.

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- 2025 Theme: *EMS Soaring to New Heights*. Their commitment to elevating EMS through innovation, education, and collaboration.
- Next meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2024, 9:00 a.m., at the Medical Examiner and Trauma Services office.

Medical Issues – Dr. Randy Katz

- The county trauma committee discussed finger thoracostomy. County's trauma committee had a consensus to move away from needle decompression toward finger thoracostomy. EMS agencies should move toward this. Some are.
- This month is Sepsis Awareness Month. It is the number one cause of death in hospitalized patients. City of Hollywood started prehospital antibiotic initiative, At the end of September it will be six months. They treated about 60 people over the last six months. They will run the data at the end of month to see if there was any improvement.
- The State committee is looking at trauma rules. Discussion on requirements for trauma centers.
 - Candace Pineda said the Florida Trauma Council meets today at 3:00 p.m. and the State of Florida trauma standards have not been updated since 2010. She said the State is having weekly meetings to update to coincide with national standards. They have reviewed the standards, and they are almost ready for formal legislative provision.
 - Dr. Katz said that many hospitals around the state are trying to become a trauma center. He wants it to be fair but high-quality.
- Dr. Katz said they started the grant and hired a social worker (who has been running a program in Palm Beach County). Plan on an outreach program for overdoses (Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood received the grant). South Florida Wellness (grant-funded) in Broward; they have been a huge resource. EMS people call them, and they will meet the patient in the ER and conduct intervention. South Florida Wellness is a resource that has been underutilized. He has their contact.

BHAP/Behavior Health Assistance Program – Chaplain Barnabas Johnson

- No Report. He had been on military leave. He will have a report for the next meeting.

EMS Review – Alison Zerbe

- No EMS Reviews currently

Grants – Alison Zerbe

- Some changes at the State level have caused a delay in the 2024 grant funds. Alison received a check, and agreements are going out. Once executed they can reimburse the funds.
- Currently, nothing is posted for 2025 grant.

Old Business – Dr. Frederick Keroff

- Last EMS Council meeting, the council voted unanimously to write a letter of support for resuscitation centers in Broward County. Alison sent out the draft letter for review, comments and/or changes.
- It's a grassroots effort right now. Published data from current Resuscitation Centers is

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needed. The first step is data collection.

- Chief Downey will review the letter with Alison and make some specific changes.
- This letter does not mimic the State Advisory Council's letter.
- Memorial Hospital South is working to become a primary resuscitation center.
- EMS Council needs to communicate with the State (Chief Tom DiBernardo) to find out if they must have everything inhouse or if they can work with a comprehensive resuscitation center and still be a primary resuscitation center. They will find out what standards/criteria to be comprehensive vs. primary resuscitation center.
- Alison will retrieve the EMS Advisory Council's State letter in support for resuscitation centers. Alison will email it to the EMS Council.
- Dr. Katz will do a presentation at the EMS meeting in December.

New Business – Dr. Frederick Keroff

- Have not had a formal chair of the EMS Council since Ralph Marrinson retired. Dr. Keroff the Vice Chair has been the acting Chair since then.
- They made some changes in the by-laws to facilitate some nominations. They reduced the officers to Chair and Vice Chair. They opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Dr. Keroff was

MOTION TO VOTE for Dr. Frederick Keroff for Chair and Dr. Wayne Lee for Vice Chair of the Broward Regional EMS Council.

Motion made by Chief Julie Downey

Seconded by Dr. Randy Katz

MOTION passed unanimously

Good of the Order

Next Meeting Dates

December 5, 2024

Adjourned

3:11 p.m.